

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

### PUBLIC AWARENESS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES for December 17, 2014

The DVCC Public Awareness/Education Committee met on December 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the New Castle County Courthouse, Wilmington. Attending the meeting were: Judge Carl C. Danberg, Court of Common Pleas - Chair; Kimberly Cauley, DE Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Maureen Monagle, Criminal Justice Council; Ellie Torres, Natasha Smith and Pat Kwetkauskie - DVCC staff; and one member of the public.

Call to Order: Judge Danberg called the meeting to order.

Introduction: Judge Danberg welcomed Committee members.

- Minutes: It was noted that information regarding public comment was not included in the October 29, 2014 meeting minutes. Pat indicated that the minutes will be revised and will reflect that Mr. Tim Collins provided public comment and noted Mr. Tim Collins provided public comment and noted that along with women, men are also victims of domestic violence. The minutes, with this revision, were approved by consensus.

#### Old Business

- Recommendations from the DVCC Quarterly Council Meeting; Committee Goals and Focus

Judge Danberg noted there were no specific instructions from the Council concerning the goals and focus of the Committee. He also indicated that some of the work of the DVCC Public Awareness/Education Committee will overlap with that of other DVCC Committees

Judge Danberg noted that during the recent DVCC Quarterly meeting there was discussion about unexpended STOP Grant funds to support training that will benefit the court. He explained the DVCC Criminal Justice Committee will undertake planning the training(s).

Judge Danberg noted the format used for annual ethics training for attorney's works well. There is a basic training component that is repeated every year along with specialized tracks that include more in-depth information.

Maureen explained the timelines to request extensions to spend STOP Grant funds established by the US DOJ Office on Violence Against Women's.

Judge Danberg noted there is a need to educate the criminal justice system about referring domestic violence offenders to DVCC certified batterer intervention programs vs. anger management classes. He also indicated there is a need to evaluate the efficacy of Delaware's

batterer intervention programs. Ellie reported the DVCC Treatment Committee is currently looking at methods to evaluate the programs.

#### New Business

- Priorities/Next Steps – Public Awareness

Judge Danberg explained that in the past, the Committee's public awareness activities had focused on the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing and the compilation and distribution of the DVCC *Annual Report & Fatal Incident Review Team Report*.

There was discussion about activities the Committee could undertake. These include:

- Outreach to women who are pregnant. Maureen noted that in the three most recent domestic violence fatalities, the women were pregnant.

Outreach could include developing media messages with information about the higher risk of abuse during pregnancy, and the importance of knowing community resources such as DV Hotlines before abuse starts.

In addition, an editorial on abuse during pregnancy was proposed. DVCC staff will draft and present an editorial to the committee for review.

- Outreach to others. This could include distributing posters to sites that provide services to children and teens. It was noted that secondary School-Based Health Centers routinely display *Domestic Violence Resource* posters prepared and distributed by the DVCC. The DV Resource posters include the gender neutral message "It Shouldn't Hurt To Go Home".
- Awareness Campaign - General Public. The Committee, will approach the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence to collaborate on exploring opportunities for a statewide campaign to promote public awareness about domestic violence.

- Priorities/Next Steps – Education

- The Committee reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by DVCC staff and includes dates, sponsors and locations of training, education and other events. The spreadsheet/calendar will be updated by DVCC and distributed to law enforcement and service providers on an on-going basis.

#### Other – Public Comment

Judge Danberg stated he will not schedule time for public comment during the Committee's meetings. He cited several reasons:

- His schedule requires that he return to the bench immediately after Committee meetings. Consequently, time constraints dictate that meetings last no more than one hour.
- The law does not require public comment periods during committee meetings of this nature. Also, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council routinely affords members of the public the opportunity to provide comment during its Quarterly meetings.
- Judge Danberg noted that his meeting style is to invite members of the public to provide input during the committee's discussions. He indicated he may review this approach in the future.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DVCC Public Awareness/Education Committee will be held on January 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting location will be in the LL 2 Conference Room in the New Castle County Courthouse, Wilmington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC Staff  
December 23, 2014  
Revised January 26, 2014